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THE WARSAW WEEKLY

Editorial and Business Offices Mokotowska 12/4, Warsaw, Poland,
Telephone 884-30.

Subscription rates — zł. 3.50 quarterly, zł. 13.00 yearly.
Foreign 4/- or \$1. quarterly, 15/- or \$7.50 yearly.

Sole member for Poland of the North American Newspaper Alliance
P. K. O. 29898.

VOL. I. NR. 42

FRIDAY, OCT. 25, 1935

PRICE 30 GR.

KARPIŃSKI LEAVES FOR AUSTRALIA

In an aeroplane named "Blue Bird" in evident wooing of the luck of Captain Campbell, Major Stanisław Karpiński took off from Warsaw for Melbourne, Australia, Monday morning at 6:35 a.m. in the most ambitious flight ever attempted by a Polish airman.

Permission to fly across Persian territory had been delayed, and its arrival Sunday decided Major Karpiński to begin his flight Monday morning despite unfavourable atmospheric conditions which prevailed during the first day's flight to Bucharest.

Minor engine trouble cut in half the first day's hop which was to have ended in Stamboul. A favourable landing was made at Bucharest, but, while the plane was being wheeled into the hangar, a tire burst, necessitating spending Tuesday in that city.

Early Wednesday morning, with plane fully repaired, Major Karpiński resumed his flight, reaching Stamboul at 11:35 a.m. Due to his desire to complete certain arrangements with the Turkish authorities, he spent all of Wednesday in Stamboul, starting on his next hop only yesterday.

Record-breaking

In point of distance, this flight will be record-breaking in the annals of Polish air history, as over 40,000 kilometres will be flown to Melbourne and return. This flight compares with some made in former years such as that of Captain Orliński to Tokyo and return, and the solo flight of Major Skarżyński from Warsaw to Rio de Janeiro-Buenos Aires. Major Karpiński plans long hops, weather permitting, landing only to take on fuel at Aleppo, Bagdad, Bassora, Karachi, Allahabad, Calcutta, Rangoon, Singapore, Batavia, Port Darwin and a few other less well-known spots on the globe.

The major takes with him the usual supplies carried by long-distance flyers — chocolate, tea in thermos flasks, cola, cameras, and firearms, the last a protection against tribesmen if a forced landing occurs in hostile territory.

Among the baggage is a flask of Vistula water which will be presented in Australia, and the major is to bring back with him an urn filled with earth from the Kościusko Mountain in northern Australia for the Piłsudski Mound near Kraków.

The plane used was constructed by Plage and Łaskiewicz of Lublin and is the type known as "Lublin XIII D." It was built in 1933 as Major Karpiński had intended this flight for that year, but difficulties prevented the plan being realized. The aeroplane is powered with a single Wright motor of 220 horsepower which provides a cruising speed of nearly 170 kilometres hourly.



SOLDIERS OF BRITISH GUARD AT ADDIS ABABA
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ETHIOPIANS MOVE FAST AND FAR ON BARE FEET

By Robinson Maclean

It is one o'clock in the morning here as I write this — night fell like a dropped curtain five hours ago and the 90,000 people of Addis Ababa went to sleep. Most of them are sleeping in the little mud-walled, thatched huts that are called tukuls. They are sleeping on beds woven of raw-hide and they are covered with heavy cotton blankets and hides because it is cold in Addis Ababa — so cold that you wonder how their bare feet stand it — the bare feet that drill on streets, hotel compounds,

tennis courts — that learn to go right-left-right and then trudge off to the battle fronts to face invaders.

Their feet are bare, but they can travel on those feet. They can run faster than most college athletes, and they can keep up that run for mile after up-and-downhill mile to cover from 20 to 40 miles a day in any country. More than that. As they run, they can carry a month's supplies of food. It is thirty double handfuls of shimbira — a little pea — and they get fat on a handful a day.

They have lots of faults, of course, these people of Ethiopia. They are a little lazy, and a little boastful, and there are lepers in the streets here, and fleas everywhere. But His Majesty, the Emperor, has done a lot of good work since he came to the big four-poster throne of Ethiopia.

He has passed slavery laws, for instance, and he makes them stick. He cannot clean up the slave situation overnight — even the slaves do not want it — and there are still hundreds of thousands of them in the country. But children born in slavery, can free themselves in an hour — and nearly 14,000 already have.

But a lot of them do not want to. They have a pretty easy life, just trotting around carrying their master's shoes, or his umbrella and they get all they want to eat — which is more than they would have if they were suddenly kicked out on their own. Of course, there are hard masters — men who beat their slaves just the same as they beat their mules — but if you wanted to write an "Uncle Tom's Cabin" about Ethiopia you would have to go to one of the back corners of the country and do an awful lot of digging around. You might run across someone selling a slave, but he would never admit it, because he could be executed for slave trading if he were found out — and the Government agents have a monotonous way of finding out.

Feeding a slave, or for that matter any native, is no great problem. Lunch, in Ethiopia, consists of just the same food as breakfast and supper. It is walt and njera and coffee. The walt is a red-pepper stew that is twice as hot as the hottest Mexican chile. The njera is a bread that looks like crepe rubber — big grey soggy blankets of flour and water. They tear off a few square inches, wrap it around their finger, poke it into the pepper steak — and that's lunch or breakfast or supper.

(Continued on page 3, col. 1)

PREMIER ANNOUNCES REFORMS

A week had scarcely elapsed since the adjournment of the extraordinary session of Sejm and Senate which served to organize these two bodies meeting for the first time under the new Constitution when President Mościcki issued a call for a second extraordinary session.

Pursuant to the call which was issued last Saturday, the Sejm and Senate met yesterday in their first session.

The session was called to consider a projected bill granting special powers to the Government, and this bill is the only matter that can be considered under the terms of the call.

The text of the projected law is as follows:

Art. 1: The President of the Republic is hereby empowered to issue decrees until January 15, 1936, on matters pertaining to national economy and finance but not conflicting with the decree of the President of the Republic of October 13, 1927, stabilizing the zloty. (Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland, Nr. 88, section 79.0)

Art. 2: The execution of the law is delegated to the President of the Council of Ministers (Premier Kościłkowski) and to each Minister, each within his own sphere.

Art. 3: This Law obtains from the day of its publication, (i. e. in the Journal of Laws.)

Marshal Car opened the session of the Sejm at 10:05 a. m. yesterday. The Journal of the last session was then approved, after which the decree of the President calling the session was read. The decrees of the President dismissing the Cabinet of Colonel Ślawek and appointing Mr. Kościłkowski Premier were read. The text of the projected law was read, and, at 10:25, Premier Kościłkowski began to speak.

The Premier began by explaining that the most important task before his Cabinet was finding work for everyone. A secondary consideration is all that which tends to make the position secure when once obtained.

"Men obsessed only by the second purpose commit an elementary mistake in connection with the reality in which we live."

The Premier then promised, as far as lay within his power, to reorganize the administration so as to do away with bureaucratic unjust features, to reorganize the collection of tax arrears, to increase industrial production, to divide the national income more equitably, to do away with some unhealthy features of the existing cartels, to hasten the

reconstruction of the agrarian system, to balance all public budgets, and, finally, to preserve the present value of the zloty.

He stated the principles (1) that public budgets have not balanced their income and outgo but borrowed money in the open market, diminishing the free capital available, thus increasing the cost of production; (2) the army budget must be kept intact so that the army should be able to fulfill its purposes; (3) that the state budget should be balanced at a figure of a little above 1900 millions.

For this purpose the income tax will be reformed in the sense that the rates will be increased throughout all brackets, and the number liable to this tax enlarged. This is estimated to give 66 millions.

An extraordinary tax will be levied on all salaries paid by the state and will be effective throughout all departments participating in the budget.

The Premier admitted that measures to increase the purchasing power of the agricultural population are not easy to execute, that the proposed operations will be painful, but he made a strong appeal to all sections of the population to take these burdens in the same spirit which Marshal Piłsudski exemplified.

PRESIDENT MOŚCICKI WITHDRAWS EXEQUATORS

President Mościcki has withdrawn the exequators from the Czechoslovakian Consuls in Poznań and Kraków, Doctors Dolezal and Maixner, respectively.

For some time the Czechoslovakian Government has made it difficult for Polish Consuls to execute their duties, especially in watching over the execution of those treaties guaranteeing the rights of the Polish minority in Czechoslovakia.

For an equal period of time the Czechoslovakian Government has been following a rigid programme of "Czechification" in Czechish Silesia, and it is thought that the authorities are uneasy at the presence of witnesses who are in a position to observe the results of such a policy. A point of culmination was reached when the exequator of the Polish Consul in Morawska Ostrawa, Dr. Klotz, was cancelled,

Contrary to international custom, this step was taken without previously suggesting to the Polish Government that the Consul be recalled.

The withdrawal of the exequators of the Czechoslovakian Consuls, therefore, is a reprisal.

The Polish Government, however, informed Prague of their intentions before making the decision public.

LONDON LETTER

By Gregory Macdonald

The tension in Europe has certainly relaxed. If there is such a being as a detached observer of international affairs, he must certainly marvel at the fashion in which the minds of men in every country can be wrought to a high pitch of expectation and uncertainty for a week or a month on end, and then suddenly, by a speech here and an exchange of views there, they are allowed to call at least one crisis an event of the past.

Two days after Mr. Baldwin's speech we are all firmly convinced that there never was danger of an Anglo-Italian war in the Mediterranean. Looking back at last week, we can see that such a calamity was never even suggested. Well, so much the better. For a month now, Great Britain will be chiefly preoccupied by the General Election, which can be made to turn either upon foreign affairs or upon the urgent tasks of internal reconstruction. Many signs indicate that it will be the most vital and the most unexpected affair in the whole history of Parliament, at least since the Reform Bill.

Three Day Debate

First, however, there will be a three day debate in both Houses on the international situation. It is difficult to forecast what line the argument will take, and in any case reports of the speeches will precede the publication of this London Letter. But it must be remembered that the Labour Opposition is more deeply committed to a policy of full-blooded sanctions than the Government itself. It is the Government, nevertheless, that must take responsibility for the measures against Italy already urged by Mr. Eden at Geneva. On the other hand, the Opposition is quite as deeply committed to a policy of disarmament, while the Government (rather sensibly) wants an increase of the armed forces if they must embark on power politics. In the midst of this contradiction there appears a strong body of Conservative critics, who query the wisdom of the Government's recent steps in foreign policy, although they naturally desire peace in Europe and a strong defensive policy for the British Empire. There are also likely to be some surprises. A letter to *The*

Times from the well-known Lord Mottistone forecasts certain evidence that "the permitting of any further export of arms to the present rulers of Abyssinia would be a crime against civilization and the moral law." In the same issue a full-page advertisement from an influential group (soldiers, sailors and lawyers for the most part) demands internal reform with external defence; the reform to be on the lines of the restoration of family life and the private ownership of property, as against bureaucracy and mass production.

Peaceful Revolution

With all these indications taken together, we must probably watch for a peaceful revolution of the right sort in Great Britain not long from now: a revolution which should have incalculable results for the better over the whole of Europe. The debates of both Houses should affect the future of the League of Nations no less than the internal structure of Great Britain. For the remainder may be necessary again that behind all the excitements of international policy which have convulsed Europe for so long, the unreported financial war is the essential reality. Behind all the stress at Geneva has been the question whether Laval would maintain his position with the franc still on gold, or whether Herriot would succeed him with a policy of devaluation. Behind the debate about sanctions against Italy was the important question whether Italy could be forced to lose her gold reserve. There are indications now of a sufficient weakening of the financial opinion in France, Great Britain, America and elsewhere, to ensure that the financial war will be brought to an end soon after the General Election with what should have come long ago — a stabilization conference. That is a matter of intense interest for Great Britain because of the influence that has been exerted over her policies (ever since the Glorious Revolution which drove out the Stuarts) by the financial City of London. If peace is indivisible, so also is the history of a nation. A victory at the polls for the National Government is taken as a foregone conclusion. Speculation is confined to the size of its majority, but if the prospects of

peace improve before polling day the Labour Opposition is likely to find itself deserted by an ungrateful electorate just because its platform is one of League of Nations militarism, while Mr. Baldwin basks in sunshine as the man who preserved the peace. It is, however, too early for prophecy: there are certain to be some surprises sprung on us before the middle of November. The present view in informed circles is that the National Government will put out only a slight programme which will be capable of expansion as time goes on. The first item will be a request for the endorsement of the Cabinet's international policy, coupled with a mandate for defensive rearmament. Other proposals will be the rising of the school-leaving age, so as to diminish the number of entrants to the labour market; a policy of land settlement and transference of labour, so as to alleviate the problem of the distressed areas; the taking over of mining royalties by the State, with the reorganization of the coal industry at present threatened by severe disputes; and proposal for Empire development, including overseas emigration.

Election Important

The election will be far more important than these harmless items suggest. It will involve every problem of external and internal affairs, every question of future financial and monetary policy. To take only one example, the demand for rearmament opens the debate whether it shall be financed out of revenue (meaning higher taxation and a further loss of the export advantage) or out of loan; and with that goes the further debate whether the British Government will continue the example of nearly every other country of borrowing from the banks at lower and lower rates of interest (filling them with Government securities) at a time when people are getting out of debt and requiring no more loans. The financial aspect must not be forgotten, we are entering a period of rising prices and the world is again getting out of debt. The great problem for the financiers is how to make the world borrow — get back into debt — once more. Or is this the end of the debt-system? When Governments become the only borrowers, they have in effect taken back into their own hands the issue of currency.

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POLISH STATE RAILWAYS

The "Polish State Railways" is the official title of this vast enterprise controlling and operating the railway facilities of this country. The company was organized in 1926 as a separate legal entity under the supervision of the Ministry of Communications.

Prior to the reestablishment of independent Poland in 1918, the railways of the country were built and developed independently by the three states which had in former times partitioned Poland: Russia, Germany and Austria. The railways then built were adjusted to the needs, both commercial and military, of the respective countries, and so differed in many respects. Upon the uniting of these territories, a number of problems came to the forefront. It became absolutely necessary to join by railway different contracting provinces previously isolated, for example, the coal deposits of the South-West with the ports of the North. Moreover, a number of railway junctions and stations had to be rebuilt as many had been ruined by the belligerent armies.

This destruction was so great that, for example, on the Warsaw-Lublin-Lwów line, eighty per cent of the bridges had been razed, representing 39 kilometres, and, out of 910 railway stations, 539 had been destroyed. Depreciation in equipment had proceeded on a like scale.

Despite reconstruction work already done, there still must be spent over 100 million zlotys in erecting new bridges.

One of the most important works recently undertaken is the reconstruction of the Warsaw junction coupled with electrification of the main and suburban lines. This was made possible through a loan of £ 1,450,000 arranged through the Metropolitan

Vickers Electrical Company, Ltd. As a result of this electrification, the number of trains operating can be increased considerably. Whereas the present steam trains provide for 2,289,700 train kilometres per year, upon completion of electrification, 3,377,700 train-kilometres will be available, an increase of forty-four per cent. In addition, electric traction will be much faster, the average speed reaching one kilometre per minute. By the end of 1937 the following suburban lines should be electrified: Warsaw-Czyste, Żyrardów, Otwock and Minsk Mazowiecki.

There is also a scheme for a new central station in Warsaw to be situated over the eight tracks of the low level main station. Part of the foundation has already been laid. In addition, important works are projected for the Gdynia-Hanów station and the Kraków passenger station.

Bridges built many years ago were intended for much lighter trains and engines than now in use. On a number of lines, accordingly, such bridges had to be reinforced or even replaced. In order to increase the safety of passengers the construction of modern equipment was essential. The safety devices on most Russian and Austrian lines were insufficient and unsatisfactory. Complete modernization is, however, at hand.

The railway system, especially in former Russian Poland, was poorly developed. Up to the present, 1550 kilometres of new track have been built and put into operation, so that the length of the entire system is now about 18,000 kilometres. The rapid economic development of Poland calls for further increase. Thus

(Continued on page 5, col. 1)



GINGER ROGERS FRED ASTAIRE
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THE OGADEN FRONT

By Laurence Stallings

It is clear that the local population has definitely recovered its sang froid. The revival of confidence is visible on all sides and little attention is paid even to authentic reports that Italian scouting aeroplanes are flying over the territory of the Ogaden, the approaches from the frontier. When information was passed in to Harar to the effect that Italian air activity was increasing, the senior officer of the troops here moved his transport to the shelter of a grove of trees and then resumed the patrolling of the market place. Eventually, he found his way to the Greek hotel where he drank his share of brandy at the gala feast given in honour of the reopening of the hotel. One of the incidents during the feast was the firing of the machine-guns placed on the hotel balcony.

Correspondents who are flocking here in anticipation of military operations have been disappointed up to now and have been greatly perturbed by the action of the censorship which forbids the use of cameras. I was given permission to ride on a mule to a spot on a nearby mountain which has been a favourite excursion of mine. I was stopped however by families of Abyssinians who are camping close to some springs on the hillside. They would simply not allow me to pass because I was a white man. Provided the Italians advance to the Ogaden Plateau, there will be some desperate fighting and every waterhole will be defended. About 50,000 new Mausers have been distributed among the hill folk who are guarding the springs. They were also served out with three days' supply of ammunition, which is of English make. There were no blanks in that ammunition. I know, because I bought some and indulged in target practice. Copyright by The Warsaw Weekly, N. A. N. A. and Fox Movietone News.

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ON BARE FEET

(Continued from page 1 col. 5.)

They like it, too. I used to take a roll from the hotel at breakfast and give it to my mule-boy, Mohamet. Mohamet would bow all over himself—and then go out and trade it for a spot of the crepe-butter and tobacco he has been eating since he was two.

The people have a sense of humour. They were laughing and joking on the streets today just as they laughed and joked a hundred years ago—and it was probably the same joke.

To the outside world, His Majesty is Haile Selassie I, by the grace of God King of Kings of Ethiopia and conquering Lion of Judah. But to the people he is just John Hoy—His Majesty—little bronze John Hoy in the big palace up on the hill—John Hoy who is teaching them how to be modern, though the greybeards mutter a little. John Hoy who will tell them what they must do, John Hoy, the little man with the big job. They are ready to die if John Hoy says so—John Hoy, who has never let them down.

The light is still burning in John Hoy's study in the palace up the hill. John Hoy is not asleep. He sleeps little these nights. He sits and thinks of his Empire and the children of his Empire—and the light burns late in the palace while hyenas prow through the sleeping city.

ITALIANS ADVANCE ON ABYSSINIAN SOUTHERN FRONT

By Laurence Stallings

In spite of European politics, the Italians are progressing steadily under General Graziani on the southern front and are consolidating their tactical advantages without expending any infantry. They are relying on the bombs from their aeroplanes. Three of these bombs are now being exhibited here for the purpose of creating sympathy and pity for the victims of the raids. These three bombs are "duds," weighing ten pounds each and are nothing marvellous in the way of missiles. They are of the type universally accepted by the great democracies of the world for subduing such countries as Nicaragua, India and Morocco. It is pathetic, however, to notice that the Ethiopians still believe that these weapons are inhumane.

The three bombs are of heavy, corkscrew spiral design and are made of what apparently looks like very brittle steel, presumably with the intention that when they burst they should break up into a large number of small fragments and overwhelm trenches where the wretched Ethiopians are strung out without cover and looking to the skies where the attacks are coming from.

Large numbers of women are being moved southward out of the war zone. There is a women's battalion here, but its usefulness may be safely discounted. Apparently the local officials are unable to exercise any restraint over them.

The Italian tactics would seem to be practically the same as those almost invariably exercised

by European Armies in colonial wars and would seem to follow the plan of gradually occupying enemy territory by infiltration or guerilla warfare. This plan, however, would mean that Italy will take at least two years to reach and occupy Addis Ababa. It is generally expected, however, that a pitched battle will take place between the Italians and the Abyssinians somewhere in this neighbourhood, as the Italians keep ranging all over the district.

The ragged peasantry of Harar is rejoicing at the influx of the regular troops and there is much random shooting. The local population thinks that with the regular soldiers here they are quite safe. In fact, they seem to think that there is a good time coming.

The first wounded are arriving at the hospital run by Dr. Hochmann of the Swedish Mission, which is operating under the Ethiopian Red Cross. This hospital is established at Jijiga. The wounded tell the usual tales of dum-dum bullets wherever the Italian aeroplane machine-guns inflicted wounds which involved the breaking of bones. The only bullets seen hereabouts are of the steel collar, soft-nosed variety and the wounds of the men in the Swedish hospital look as if they had been inflicted by similar projectiles. Aeroplanes are now scouting over the Sasah Baneh area and are evidently preparing to carry out air attacks prior to a further Italian advance.

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ITALIAN LIVELINESS IN THE NORTH

By Laurence Stallings

Persistent air scouting by Italian machines from the northward supports the belief that there is increasing activity in Eritrea and that this indicates a prelude to an Italian thrust into the Abyssinian plateau on the edge of the Danakil region. This plan of the Italians is known to have been under preparation.

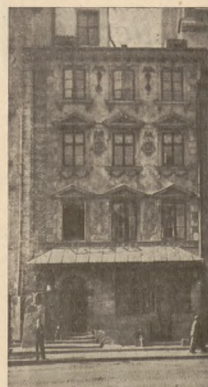
The Ethiopian forces in the south are being redistributed and there are indications that General Graziani is endeavouring to engage the rightwing of the Ethiopian troops and is acting in concert in this connection with the movements of the Italian forces in the north. Otherwise, the southern front is quiet, with the exception of the usual leisurely bomb-dropping from the air.

To-day I had a talk with one Kuolo, a local chief from the Wal Gela region, who confirmed to me the news that surry was ravaging the mountain tribes. This disease, it appears, is their greatest foe. Kuolo seems to have learned the lesson of how not to deal with hostile aeroplanes.

"Our people," he said, "are beginning to realise that it is a foolhardy thing to rush out into the open country and fire at aeroplanes overhead. We keep under cover and the aeroplanes no longer succeed in finding human targets. Although sickness has taken a heavy toll of us, the Italians are also suffering severely from disease. Thus far, however, we are content."

Kuolo said that Wehib Pasha, the Turkish general, has been of immense service to them in teaching the soldiers not to take foolish risks.

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Fukier—of Warsaw.

The firm of T. Fukier, founded in the year 1808 and ratified by the Polish Sejm (Parliament) in the year 1810, is the oldest firm of Wine Merchants in existence, not in Poland alone, but in the world.

The famous cellars, the wine shop and wholesale stores of the firm are still located in the Fukier Mansion No 27 in the Old Market Place in Warsaw, where they were first established over 325 years ago—while the cellars extend under the adjoining mansions of the Prince Mazowiecki, No 29 and 31.

FUKIER was the first and only firm to introduce Polish mead and Hungarian wine into Poland and caused them to become, as they still are, recognised as a national beverage. In the FUKIER cellars have been preserved up to the present time 3,000 bottles of Hungarian Tokay and 2,500 bottles of Polish mead that all date back to the 17th and 18th centuries. This stock of old wine and mead is unique in the entire world, it is irreplaceable, and represents a value that only most refined connoisseurs and experts can appreciate.

The "Hetmański" cellar—a term derived from the ancient title "Hetman" given to a Commander in the Polish Army, up to the 18th century—contains the oldest Hungarian Tokay and Polish mead in existence.

In pursuance of a century old tradition the firm FUKIER made a coronation gift of several bottles of these old wines to all Polish and Hungarian Kings. In past generations such gifts were made to the Austro-Hungarian Emperor Francis Joseph and lately, to King Charles the Fourth, of Hungary, on the occasion of his coronation in 1914. These wines were always at the coronation banquets and were appreciated by the royal recipients.

FUKIER wines and meads have been known in Poland for centuries and were at the banquet tables of Polish Kings Nobles and Magistrates from the immemorial Polish royalty, nobility and citizens all frequented the FUKIER wine shop and the historical premises in the old Market Place are to this date one of the most interesting connections between the present and the past.

The connection between the firm of FUKIER and Polish history during the past 350 years is vividly portrayed in that the ancient premises of the firm were the scene of many gatherings of supreme national importance: Members of National Governments assembled there, and issued their proclamations in their struggle against their oppressors. Uprisings and revolutions in past eras were plotted and planned in the shelter of the immense FUKIER cellars. There, the elite of their day, nobles rulers, and partisans met to discuss their aims and establish their revolutions.

TWO MILLION TRIBESMEN WAITING FOR ITALIANS

By Laurence Stallings

Dr. Hochmann, the Swedish surgeon in charge of the unit attached to the Abyssinian Red Cross, has just returned from a tour of the surrounding country which may not be visited by the foreign correspondents owing to the stricter control now exercised by the Army authorities.

"Most of the casualties I came across," he said to me, "were caused by machine gun fire. The Abyssinian still has a mania for rushing out into the open and shooting at aeroplanes with rifles whenever an Italian air raid takes place. I will say this for the Italians, the marksmanship of their pilots is deadly. These raids however are slowly rubbing into the Ethiopians the notion that taking cover from overhead attack is the surest defence against air raids. The front I visited is much the same as when you saw it; in other words, there is no front, but merely two million tribesmen, in fact the spearman of the whole nation armed, suffering, waiting and praying for the Italians to advance. I cannot believe that Italy can win this war at whatever cost and by whatever tactics the Italians may use."

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Art Music & Literature

PRESS REVIEW



OPEN HOUSE (Dom Otworthy). Scene from the First Act, (Macharska, Barszczewska, Chmielewski, Milecki, Tatarakiewicz-Woskowska and Hyniżdzinski.)

OPEN HOUSE

Michał Bałucki is a well known author of comedy in the Polish dramatic literature of the second half of the last century. Much in the same manner as his contemporary Józef Biliński, the author of *Damazy* reviewed last week in these columns, Bałucki observes the characteristic traits of his metier and gives us light merry comedies, pointing out the little failings and the frailties of the period in clever, lively caricature. His rather prolific pen has given us a sizable number of farly satirical plays which are highly amusing for the reason that his characters are alive and human, pen portraits, probably, of his friends and acquaintances with alternate touches of elfish caricature and healthy, full-throated humour.

Open House belongs among Bałucki's most successful creations. It is a satire on the Krakovian social set of the seventies and eighties, all the more colourful and amusing in that to this "urban society" of small minds and wagging tongues the author opposes people of broader and more tolerant outlook, distinguished by nothing in particular, but possessing a wholesome simplicity of soul. We are shown these better people making an attempt to live with and like the smart set of Kraków, an attempt which, for many surprises, painful to them but highly amusing to the spectator, ends in slamming shut the door of the "open house," and returning to their more normal life.

Bałucki squeezed his subject dry in smooth, effortless fashion, giving full play to his excellent stage technique and flair for humorous situations. Every tableau is well struck, each scene connected with the next, and in spite of the great number of burlesque figures introduced, each of them has a separate, individual, extremely lively *vis comica*, and each resembles the others only in that all are created with the same talent and pulsating humour. Especially the second act, which takes us into the stuffy atmosphere of a petit bourgeois ball, has a whole gallery of incomparable portraits; scene follows scene, each more comical than the preceding, to end in a hurricane of humour in the finale. All these elements contribute no little to the longevity and stage popularity of *Open House*, so it is not surprising when Bałucki's comedies make their periodic appearances in our theatres that they always meet with spontaneous approval; for how else if not with roaring laughter can the public react to the picture of a such generation painted in such glaring but well-placed colours.

Open House, particularly in Warsaw, has a well-established

stage tradition, for its feature rôles have been played by the greatest of Polish artists. We last saw this comedy in 1931 in the *Athenaeum* performed by Jaracz's youthful troupe. The director and stage designer then treated the play as a thorough burlesque, a definite caricature of the epoch. At present, in the *Teatr Letni*, director Zbigniew Ziemiński gives it a more realistic character, styling it after the period it portrays. As far as regards the recreation of the metier and the manner of the period, the performance in the *Teatr Letni* is closer and truer to Bałucki's original; the *Athenaeum* interpretation, however, had, perhaps, more humour in it. In any case, we must acknowledge the pronounced success of Ziemiński's directing, and add that, if the pace of certain scenes be speeded up, *Open House* in the *Letni* will be a performance of highest excellency, meriting a long run.



OPEN HOUSE
Third Act
Elżbieta Barszczewska, Mieczysław Milecki

Practically all the artists took advantage of their excellent parts. Orwid, Janek, Macharska and Z. Chmielewski, playing the leads, gave us convincing interpretations of their almost grotesquely comic rôles. Special mention must be made of Barszczewska, Woskowska, Milecki and Hyniżdzinski for their vivid creations of the comic-sentimental rôles that the author had sketched somewhat flatly into the play. In the famous rôle of the renowned master of ceremonies, Fikalski, Dymusz displayed his inextinguishable comical antics, funny enough in themselves, but, in this play, a bit out of place. In fact all the artists, down to the smallest rôles, and especially Zalec among these latter, acted with great humour and talent and gave us a capital interpretation of this fine satire on Kraków life of a past generation. —Arno.

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Kurjer Polski, discussing the policy of the new Government and the declaration made by the Premier, Mr. Kościłkowski, regarding the general outline of his intentions, writes that the new Government is aiming at co-operation with the community. Its chief task is to lift the country up economically and in order to act quickly, it has asked

WHITER THAN THE SNOW

The tenth anniversary of the great Polish writer, Stefan Żeromski, will be the occasion for the revival of a whole series of his plays on Warsaw stages.

The *Teatr Kameralny* has already begun the cycle with the drama *Whiter Than the Snow*. This play hinges on the problem of guilt and punishment. The hero, Wiktor Rudomski, because Irena falls out of favour with his despotic mother, who wants Irena to marry another man. In his despair Wiktor opens the gates of the dam during a great



WHITER THAN THE SNOW
First Act
Aldona Jasińska and Karol Benda

flood and so causes the death of many people, Irena's prospective husband included. For this his mother curses him and the curse is fulfilled. Repulsed by Irena, Wiktor goes off to war and returns a complete cripple; but his deep experiences have so disciplined and uplifted his spirit that he is able to rise high above his surroundings, and die, brave and unafraid, the victim of an infuriated mob of peasants whom he had really done his best to help.

It is easy to see that such a plot gives much room for Żeromski to handle the moral and social problem that always fascinated him, but it would be wrong to suppose that the action is heavy and slow on the stage for this reason. To be sure there are certain artificialities in the play's construction and dynamics, the curse, the war, etc., and one might accuse Żeromski of too high an intellectual level in the peasants' dialogue; but these defects remain without any real importance in view of the power and talent that are immanent in full intensity throughout the play. The *Teatr Kameralny* has exerted every effort to present *Whiter Than the Snow* at its best. The penetrating and cultured directing of Karol Benda brought out its full tragic character and mood, and Benda himself, playing the leading rôle, created a Wiktor with all the high nobility Żeromski meant him to have. Mrs. Aldona Jasińska, as Mrs. Rudomski, drew a clear bold picture of this proud patrician matron, and Miss Kornacka as the lovely Helena contrasted very well with Miss Grywińska's interpretation of Irena. This latter artist was in our opinion miscast. Mention must also be made of Rożan who in the rôle of the old miller, performed with finished ease and appeal.

The *Teatr Kameralny* deserves praise not only for this tribute paid to the memory of one of Poland's greatest writers, but also for a very interesting and carefully prepared play. —Arno.

for full powers for the President.

We may say, that thanks to discussions carried on in the Press, the consciousness has matured in the community that collective efforts are necessary for the reform of the economic organism of the State. The opinion of the country in this respect is already prepared, for all understand the need of decided action and of a programme which would place this problem in the foreground, taking into consideration not only the present moment, but the needs of a nearer and further future.

The new Government desires, as is testified by the speeches of the Premier and Vice-Premier, to work not only for the community but *with* it. Therefore their speeches have made the best possible impression on the country.

Czas, as well as *Stowo*, a Wilno newspaper, make reservations concerning the granting of full powers to the President. *Czas* demands a strict limitation of these powers. In the past the President's full powers were very large including everything but change of the Constitution and the electoral law. These large, full powers were dictated by political reasons which at present ought not to come into account.

It is therefore quite natural that the limits of the full powers should be defined according to the reasons for which they are considered necessary. These full powers are to be voted in order to give the Government a quick and real (not an apparent) means of combating the budget deficit and ought therefore to include all questions connected with this problem. On the other hand an extension of the powers beyond this sphere has in our opinion no actual reason and from the political point of view seems to be highly undesirable as it would constitute a lowering of the position of the Parliament in the opinion of the people.

Stowo takes up a similar stand pointing out that the Premier and all his colleagues have acknowledged the Constitution of April 23 as one that should be authoritative for the country. It limits the rights of the Sejm but just for this reason we might expect that the sphere of action which the Constitution of April 23 has left to the Sejm will be performed by it and not transferred to anybody else.

Gazeta Polska discussing the same question writes that the limitation of full powers is a subject for discussion but it supposes that the Government will announce a distinct plan as to the way it intends profiting by the full powers:

If the standpoint of the Government and that of Parliamentary majority is similar then both the sphere of the granted full powers and their duration will be limited, from the technical point of view, fixed so that the Government should be able to execute that which is its will as well as that of the Parliament.

Robotnik of course takes a pessimistic view of the new Government and in analyzing the declarations of the Premier and Vice-Premier it comes to the conclusion that:

The declarations of Messrs. Kościłkowski and Kwiatkowski have awakened in the community, certain — very slight — hopes. They will fade very quickly if deeds do not follow words. And then — disillusionment (in this exceptionally responsible moment in international policy) will grow enormously.

The writer proceeds then to say that if the present Government does not break entirely with the former system there can be no question of nearer contact with the community.

Diennik Narodowy states that even with the best understanding of affairs Minister Kwiatkowski "will not be able to control the deficit and to initiate private enterprise, to build up confidence and economic elasticity if he is obliged to work according to the present political system."

The *Diennik Narodowy* makes the political system responsible for all the misfortunes of the economic situation and for the mistrust of the people. "The accumulated heap of mistrust, doubt and unbelief will not be removed by one speech, however full of the most noble accents, just as ten speeches will not relight belief if together with words convincing deeds do not go..."

Kurjer Warszawski commenting on the anti-dictator attitude of England and the United States of America says:

This anti-dictator solidarity of England and the United States could lead us to the conclusion that in truth conviction will solve matters, that dictatorships of great, armed nations are a danger to peace. He who understands what is the power of the Anglo-Saxon states will be able to appraise what consequences may result in time from this new turn and how great should be our reserve in coupling our fate with the future of great dictator states.

Kurjer Warszawski, discussing the Italian-Abyssinian question and the attitude of France and England, writes:

English diplomacy in the present crisis has an original sin on its conscience. The neglect of energetic action immediately after the incident in Wal-Wal when the Italians had only just begun their adventurous expedition, and before they had engaged themselves so far that at present they cannot withdraw without catastrophe. England is trying to correct this mistake by faithful and zealous service to the League. Equally belated are the equivocal attitudes of Laval who is in danger of suffering from France and England which is the condition for effective resistance to Italian aggression and quick liquidation of the Abyssinian war.

Concerning Polish-Czech relations *Czas* writes in quite objective spirit. It admits that according to law the Polish minority was not badly assured of its national rights; there are a number of private schools, two Polish secondary schools and the Polish language is at least tolerated in the communal offices.

This would be at least a tolerable situation were it not for the numerous cases of chicanes on the part of the administrative authorities and the continual, often very brutal, attempts to Czechify the Polish population, by establishing Czech schools, even in villages where the vast majority of inhabitants — by imposing on the people Czech priests and Czech village mayors, finally by pressure exerted on Polish miners in order to force them, to send their children to Czech schools. All this policy is spiteful, injurious, inexcusable and does not bring any good to the Czechs themselves.

As long as the deciding factors in Prague do not understand that ill-treatment of the Polish population in Silesia creates bad and irritated feeling in Poland so long Polish and Czech relations will not enter into a normal path, nor will there be an understanding on international ground between two sister nations.

Whether on the Polish side all has been done to soften the irritation, whether the methods applied in frontier policy were always the right ones and effective, will be another question which we will not at present analyze.

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